

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 /054 W

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R 170115Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1658

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN TEXTILE AGREEMENT

1. E/C COUNS CALLED ON MITI COUNCILLOR K. GOTO OF CONSUMER GOODS INDUSTRIES BUREAU AND M. KURODA, TRADE DIVISION DIRECTOR IN SAME BUREAU, ON JULY 16. GOTO AND KURODA PROVIDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PROVISIONS OF THE US-JAPAN TEXTILE AGREEMENT CONCERNING SYNTHETIC FIBERS AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF THAT SUBJECT MIGHT LEAD TO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

2. ACCORING TO GOTO, JAPANESE HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF ANY SUCH PROVISIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINISTER JURICH IN HONOLULU LAST YEAR AND HAD AGREED ONLY AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT NEED FOR THEM WOULD BE REVIEWED THIS YEAR WITH A VIEW TO DROPPING THEM. GOTO, WHO MADE MOST OF THE PRESENTATION, REFERRED TO THE PROTOCOL OF DISCUSSIONS ACCOMPANYING THE AGREEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID BOTH SIDES AGREED TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR QUOTAS ON SYNTHETIC YARN. HE THEN PROVIDED A COPY OF A TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE DIET OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1975, IN WHICH THEN MITI MINISTER NAKASONE CONFIRMED FOR THE RECORD THAT THE GOJ HAD AGREED TO MAINTAINING QUOTAS ON SYNTHETIC YARN EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT PROVIDED FOR

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UNDER THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES, BUT WOULD

SEEK THEIR REMOVAL IN A YEAR.

3. GOTO CITED A VARIETY OF REASONS FOR DROPPING THE YARN QUOTAS. THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT THE DIET WILL PROBABLY RESUME SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER, AT WHICH TIME MEMBERS ARE CERTAIN TO ASK WHAT THE GOJ HAS DONE ABOUT YARN QUOTAS. GOTO AND KURODA ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT SUGGESTIONS MADE BY POLANSKI IN TOKYO DURING THE DENT VISIT THAT YARN QUOTAS COULD BE DROPPED ONLY IF THE GOJ OFFERS COMPENSATION. SUCH A POSITION, IF IT IS OFFICIALLY PUT FORWARD BY THE US, WOULD AROUSE STRONG OBJECTIONS IN THE DIET WHERE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT YARN QUOTAS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED ON ANY TERMS.

4. KURODA IS LEAVING FOR EUROPE FOR TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS ON JULY 16 AND EXPECTS TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR TALKS WITH COMMERCE AND STATE ABOUT AUGUST 1. HE AND GOTO DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS OF THE EMBASSY BUT ARE HOPEFUL THAT FACE-TO-FACE TALKS IN WASHINGTON WILL BE HELPFUL.

5. COMMENT: IN THIS SITUATION KEY WORD IS "COMPENSATION." MITI DOES NOT WANT TO BE IN POSITION OF HAVING TO STATE TO DIET THAT US WILL CONSIDER REVISION OF YARN QUOTA PROVISIONS ONLY IF COMPENSATION IS GRANTED. AT THIS POINT IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT MITI REQUIRES QUICK CONCESSIONS FROM US, BUT RATHER WOULD BE SATISFIED IF WE WOULD AGREE TO FURTHER TALKS ON THIS QUESTION ON ITS OWN MERITS WITHOUT MENTION OF COMPENSATION AT A TIME AGREEABLE TO BOTH SIDES. SUCH A POSITION WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO HANDLE DIET QUESTIONS WITH CONFIDENCE, LEAVING ACTUAL BARGAINING POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES OPEN FOR THE PRESENT.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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